

boss comprises recesses or a circumferential groove in which the at least one lock lies and keeps the forward closure and boss axially together.

2. (Amended) The release mechanism of Claim 1, wherein the lock is in the form of a ball.

3. (Amended) The release mechanism of Claim 1, wherein the lock is in the form of a rod, a chip, a lug, or a button.

4. (Amended) The release mechanism of Claim 1, wherein the lock retainer comprises a retaining ring having a continuous internal retainer race.

5. (Amended) The release mechanism of Claim 4, wherein the lock retainer comprises a ball retaining ring having a continuous internal ball retainer race.

6. (Amended) The release mechanism of Claim 1, wherein the lock retainer comprises a number of separated, axially projecting retainers.

7. (Amended) The release mechanism of Claim 6, wherein the lock retainer comprises an annular part and a number of separated, axially projecting ball retainers.

8. (Amended) The release mechanism of Claim 1, wherein the boss is hollow and cylindrical.

9. (Amended) The release mechanism of Claim 1, wherein the forward closure comprises a polar boss and a forward motor closure that are threaded together and a seal interposed therebetween.

10. (Amended) The release mechanism of Claim 1, wherein the projectile is a penetrator.

Please add the following new claims:

11. (New) A missile comprising:

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a rocket motor that includes a casing wherein the rocket motor propels the missile; a projectile that is coupled to the rocket motor and is separable therefrom; and

a release mechanism interposed between the projectile and the rocket motor wherein the release mechanism includes at least one locking member that is coupled to both the projectile and the rocket motor and a spring biasing member that engages with the at least one locking member so as to maintain the at least one locking member in engagement between the rocket motor and the projectile, wherein the spring biasing member is biased in the direction opposite the motion of the missile such that when the

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rocket motor ceases propelling the missile, the force of the spring biasing member is overcome thereby allowing the locking member to disengage between the projectile and the rocket motor thereby releasing the projectile from the rocket motor.

12. (New) The missile of Claim 11, wherein the release mechanism further comprises a movable locking retainer that engages with the at least one locking member and the spring biasing member such that when the rocket motor disengages the movable locking retainer compresses the spring biasing member thereby permitting the at least one locking member to disengage between the projectile and the rocket motor.

13. (New) The missile of Claim 12, wherein the rocket motor includes one or more recesses in which the at least one locking members are captured, wherein the spring biasing member engages with the movable locking retainer so as to retain the at least one locking members within the recess to secure the projectile and rocket motor together.

14. (New) The missile of Claim 13, wherein the at least one locking member comprises a plurality of balls positioned within the recesses.

REMARKS

These changes are being made to bring the subject application into better conformance with U.S. practice, to claim the benefit of previously filed international applications, to identify related and concurrently filed applications, and to more distinctly claim what the Applicant regards as the invention. No new matter is being introduced. Entrance of this amendment is respectfully requested. Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

By: _____

Michael H. Trenholm

Registration No. 37, 743

Attorney of Record

620 Newport Center Drive

Sixteenth Floor

Newport Beach, CA 92660

(909) 781-9231

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